

RESOURCES for AGING

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In this Issue

FEDERAL REGISTER UPDATE (Page 1)

Corporation Seeks Renewal of Award Nomination Guidelines
IRS to Fund Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program
AHRQ Requests Items to Measure Medicaid Home Services
AHRQ Requests Input for a National Health Data Entity
CMS Creates MMA Regulations for IHS Program
AoA Seeks Comments Regarding National Survey of Service Recipients
HHS Announces Grants to Combat Minority Health Disparities
HUD Proposes Income and Rent Determinations for Public Housing
Access Board Proposes Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Areas
DOL Seeks Computer Investment Advice Programs for IRAs
Census Bureau Requests Comments for LUCA Program
CMS Issues Quarterly Listing of Program Issuances

JOB OPPORTUNITIES (Page 5)

Bridging Communities Seeks Bilingual Social Worker

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING (Page 6)

FEDERAL REGISTER UPDATE (May 28 – June 22)

The Federal Register is the daily publication of the National Archives and Records Administration. It outlines rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential documents.

To access the Federal Register, go to www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html, the GPO Access homepage. Up will come "Federal Register: Browse." Also "Current Issue" and "Back Issues (HTML only)." Go to "Back Issues," select the year and click on "Go." Up will come the issues for that year. If you click on 2007, the current issue and all back issues for 2007 will come up. Then click on the date of the issue you want to access.

Corporation Seeks Renewal of Award Nomination Guidelines

See the Federal Register dated **May 30** (Vol. 72, No. 103). Go to "Corporation for National and Community Service" and see "Notices." This notice from the Corporation is to provide the general public and federal agencies with an opportunity to comment. Currently the Corporation is soliciting public comments concerning the Spirit of Service Award nomination guidelines for its three programs. One is Senior Corps (FGP, SCP and RSVP). The Spirit of Service Awards enable the Corporation to recognize exceptional organizations and program participants. The Corporation plans to continue using specific nomination guidelines, and follow a formal nomination process. The collection guidelines were granted a 3-year approval by the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) until September 30, 2007. The Corporation is now seeking approval

to continue them for three more years. Public comment must be submitted by **July 30**. For more information, call 202/606-6717.

IRS to Fund Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program

See the Federal Register dated **June 1** (Vol. 72, No. 105). Go to “Internal Revenue Service” and see “Notices, Grants.” This notice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announces the availability of application packages for the 2007 Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program. The deadline for submitting a completed application package to the IRS for the TCE Program is **August 1**. The IRS has authority to enter into cooperative agreements with private or public non-profit agencies or organizations to establish a network of trained volunteers to provide free tax information and return preparation assistance to elder individuals who are age 60 or older at the close of their taxable year. Cooperative agreements will be entered into based upon competition among eligible agencies and organizations, subject to the appropriation of funds. Once funded, sponsoring agencies and organizations will receive a grant from the IRS for administrative expenses, and to reimburse volunteers for expenses incurred in training, and in providing tax return assistance to senior adults. For more information, call 202/283-0189.

AHRQ Requests Items to Measure Medicaid Home Services

See the Federal Register dated **June 4** (Vol. 72, No. 106). Go to “Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality” and see “Notices, Consumers.” This notice from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) solicits the submission of survey instruments and items that could be used to measure the quality of Medicaid home and community-based service (HCBS) programs. AHRQ has received a mandate to develop such measures in consultation with relevant stakeholders. In preparation for this, AHRQ is conducting an environmental scan of existing tools that could be adapted or used for assessing the quality of Medicaid HCBS services and supports. Specifically, the AHRQ is interested in metrics related to assessing the performance of such programs, client functional outcomes, as well as client functional outcomes, or client experiences of, and satisfactions with, Medicaid HCBS services and supports. This can involve timeliness in determining the need and providing services and supports, person-centeredness, safety, equity, efficiency and effectiveness of services and supports, qualifications of providers, client health and welfare, program administration oversight, access, unmet needs among current program participants, and coordination of long-term care (LTC) services with other service providers. The survey instruments and items must be submitted by **July 4** (30 days after the publication of this notice). For more information, call 301/427-1564.

AHRQ Requests Input for a National Health Data Entity

See the Federal Register dated **June 4** (Vol. 72, No. 106). Go to “Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality” and see “Notices, Reports.” This is a request for information (RFI) by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the concept of a national health data stewardship entity (NHDSE). The primary purpose of this RFI is to gather information to foster broad stakeholder discussion. Responses to this RFI are due no later than **July 27**. There is a growing demand for healthcare data from many sectors. Key drivers for this demand have come from a surging interest in healthcare

performance measurement, and the information systems needed to aggregate, process and transmit healthcare data from which measures of health care quality may be derived, and to which the measures could be applied. This need has raised the question of responsibility for safeguarding the data beyond the original care setting. This issue has led various stakeholders to propose the formation of a public-private national health care data stewardship organization with oversight of the various uses of healthcare data, such as the concept of a NHDSE. For more information, e-mail jonathon.white@ahrq.hhs.gov.

CMS Creates MMA Regulations for IHS Program

See the Federal Register dated **June 4** (Vol. 72, No. 106). Go to “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” and see “Rules.” This final rule from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), effective **July 5**, establishes regulations required by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) which requires hospitals that furnish inpatient hospital services payable under Medicare to participate in the contract health services program (CHS) of the Indian Health Service (IHS) operated by the IHS, Tribes and Tribal organizations, and to participate in programs operated by urban Indian organizations that are funded by HIS for any medical care purchased by those programs. The MMA also requires such participation to be in accordance with the admission practices, payment methodology, and payment rates set forth in regulations established by the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, including acceptance of no more than such payment rates as payment in full. For more information, call 301/443-2694.

AoA Seeks Comments Regarding National Survey of Service Recipients

See the Federal Register dated **June 8** (Vol. 72, No. 110). Go to “Aging Administration” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) requests public comment by **August 7** on the information collection requirements relating to the Fourth National Survey of Older Americans Act Service Recipients. This information collection builds on earlier national pilot studies and performance measurement tools developed by grantees in the Performance Outcome Measures Project (POMP). It will include consumer assessment surveys for congregate and home delivered meal nutrition programs, transportation, homecare services and other Title III-B services, as well as the National Family Caregiver Support Program. Copies of the POMP instruments can be located at www.gpra.net. Information collected through this study will be used by AoA to track performance outcome measures; support budget requests; comply with Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) reporting requirements; provide information for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) program assessment (PART) process; provide national benchmark information for grantees; and provide information about program improvement and management initiatives. For more information, call 202/357-3583.

HHS Announces Grants to Combat Minority Health Disparities

See the Federal Register dated **June 11** (Vol. 72, No. 111). Go to “Health and Human Services Department” and see “Notices, Grants, Community Partnerships.” This notice from the Office of Minority Health (OMH) within the US Department of Health and Community Services (HHS) announces the availability of funding for 23-29 competitive grants for the Community Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities Demonstration Program. The purpose of the grants is to improve the health status of targeted minority

populations by eliminating disparities. Through this grant announcement, OMH promotes the utilization of community partnerships with locally grounded, grassroots organizations to develop and/or implement promising practices and model programs targeting minority communities that focus on health education promotion, disease risk prevention, and increased access to and utilization of preventive health care and treatment services. Eligible applicants must be private nonprofit, community-based, minority-serving organizations which address health or human services; or be a public (local or tribal government) community-based organization which addresses health or human services; or represent a collaborative partnership consisting of at least three organizations. Grant applications must be submitted by **July 11**, and can be downloaded at www.grantsolutions.gov For more information or to receive a hard copy, call toll-free 888/203-6161.

HUD Proposes Income and Rent Determinations for Public Housing

See the Federal Register dated **June 19** (Vol. 72, No. 117). Go to “Housing and Urban Development Department” and see “Proposed Rules.” This proposed rule from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would revise its public and assisted living program regulations to implement a process of upfront income verification of applicants and participants in assistance programs by public and housing agencies. HUD believes that this process would help cure deficiencies in public and assisted housing rental subsidy determinations identified through quality control studies and internal audits. HUD’s comprehensive strategy is to reduce by one-half the number and dollar amount of errors in its rental assistance programs. This would be applicable to all assistance applicants and participants. Public comment is requested by **August 20**. For more information, call 202/708-0744 or 202/708-3000.

Access Board Proposes Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Areas

See the Federal Register dated **June 20** (Vol. 72, No. 118). Go to “Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board” and see “Proposed Rules.” The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) is proposing to issue accessibility guidelines for outdoor developed areas that are designed, constructed or altered by Federal agencies, subject to the Architectural Barriers Act. The proposed guidelines cover trails, outdoor recreation access routes, beach access routes, and picnic and camping facilities. Public comment must be received by **October 18**. The Compliance Board is responsible for developing accessibility guidelines to ensure that new construction and alterations of facilities, subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Barriers Act, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to state and local government facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities. The Architectural Barriers Act applies to federally financed facilities. For more information, call 202/272-0014.

DOL Seeks Computer Investment Advice Programs for IRAs

See the Federal Register dated **June 20** (Vol. 72, No. 118). Go to “Employee Benefits Security Administration” and see “Notices.” This notice from the Employee Benefits Security Administration within the US Department of Labor (DOL) announces that the DOL will hold a public hearing to solicit information about the feasibility of the application of computer model investment advice programs for Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and similar types of plans. Also, whether there is any computer model

investment advice program which may be utilized to provide investment advice to IRA beneficiaries, where such program utilizes relevant information about the account beneficiary; takes into account the full range of investments (including equities and bonds) in determining the options for the investment portfolios of the beneficiary; and allows the beneficiary, in directing the investment, sufficient flexibility in obtaining advice to evaluate and select investment options. The public hearing will be held **July 31** at the DOL in **Washington, DC**. For more information, call 202/693-8540.

Census Bureau Requests Comments for LUCA Program

See the Federal Register dated **June 22** (Vol. 72, No. 120). Go to "Census Bureau" and see "Notices." This notice from the US Bureau of the Census requests public comment by **August 6** on the proposed procedures for developing the specific components of an address list review program called the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. The Census Bureau will use the LUCA program to help develop the housing unit and group quarters (including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and homes for the aged) address information that will be needed to conduct the 2010 Decennial Census. The LUCA program includes federally recognized American Indian Tribes, and general-purpose local governments such as cities and townships. This notice provides information about the three proposed options available to participants for reviewing and annotating the 2010 Census LUCA materials. For more information, call 301/763-2131.

CMS Issues Quarterly Listing of Program Issuances

See the Federal Register dated **June 22** (Vol. 72, No. 120). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Notices, Medicare and Medicaid." This notice from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) lists CMS manual instructions, substantive and interpretive regulations and other Federal Register notices relating to the Medicare and Medicaid programs that were published from January through March, 2007. This notice provides information on national coverage determinations (NCDs) affecting specific medical and health care services under Medicare. The CMS is responsible for administering the Medicare and Medicaid programs that pay for health care and related services for 39 million Medicare beneficiaries and 35 million Medicaid recipients. The Social Security Act requires that the CMS publish a list of Medicare issuances in the Federal Register every three months. For more information, call 410/786-2134 or 410/786-6954.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Bridging Communities Seeks Bilingual Social Worker

Bridging Communities, a nonprofit agency serving older adults, age 60 and older, in Southwest Detroit, desires to employ a bilingual Social Worker, preferably Spanish-English.

The focus of this position is case management of current and referred elderly clients in Southwest Detroit. It provides a full range of benefits, and the salary is negotiable, commensurate with qualifications.

Applicants should have knowledge or experience in gerontology or interpersonal practice. A MSW degree is preferred, or an equivalent 3-5 years experience in human services. This full-time position may be filled by a graduate student. For questions, call 313/361-6377.

To apply, submit a resume and letter of interest outlining qualifications by **July 30** to Bridging Communities, Inc., 6900 McGraw, Detroit, 48210. Applications also can be e-mailed to bridgingcommunities@hotmail.com or faxed to 313/361-6378.

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

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Resources for Aging is the electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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OSA is the designated State Unit on Aging for Michigan as authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Older Michiganians Act of 1981. OSA advocates on behalf of individuals age 60 or older for policies, programs and services that benefit them and their families, and it administers federal and state funds and manages grants for services provided by the aging network service providers.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, products/services and all other resources described in this e-newsletter should not be interpreted as constituting recommendation/endorsement by OSA or any of its staff members. The information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

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